SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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No 179

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

What do they want?

THE Nixon administration has given misleading answer to this universal query: "Why has not the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam been signed?" In his December 16, 1972 press conference, Kissinger shifted in defiance of all facts the blame on North Viet Nam's demand for alterations to many questions.

Who proposed to put off the signing of the cease-fire accord till between October 22 and 31? Who refused to sign it on October 31? The factual answer to these questions will by itself establish US responsibility for the present state of things.

AT that time the Nixon administration passed the buck on to the Thieu regime. They claimed they had met with some difficulties in Saigon: Thieu's objection to some arrangements arrived at with the DRVN, his insistence on "North Viet Nam's troop withdrawal," on "re-establishment of the demilitarized zone," on the scrapping of the "National Reconciliation and Concord" councils... Are those "insignificant details," "linguistic differences," or "technical problems"... It is clear that they are points of principle, because they call in question matters already agreed on in the accord like recognition of Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, the ending of US involvement in South Viet Nam. No fair settlement is conceivable short of a guaranteed solution of such issues. By raising them again, the US side has invited on itself the well-founded criticism by the world at large of the dragging out of the negotiations and failure of the accord to be signed.

Is Thieu the villain? How could he when it is the White House which pays him? He is only a tool of Washington for the implementation of Vietnamization and sabotage of the negotiations as well. His alleged claims are the very ones Nixon has been making. The whole world is at one in thinking that the tail cannot wag the dog.

CAN US procrastination be justified by the US President's assertion that the accord already reached is not "right" or "honourable"? On the contrary it paved the way for US disinvolvement, an honourable end to the very costly war. Not only does it not prejudice the American people's interest, it even meets their eager desire to wind up the conflict, bring home their boys and stop the war budget drain they have to pay for. But the termination of the killing is a calamity for the military-industrial complex now in the saddle in the US. For it war means fat dividends and is a matter of life and death. It is bent on prolonging the wars already started and kindling new ones. For it, negotiation is but a reluctant means, a public relations ploy, a smokescreen for its war crimes and its schemes to pursue and intensify the war. This explains why after coming to terms with Viet Nam on ending US military involvement in South Viet Nam, it immediately begun pouring tens of thousands of tons of hardware into the Southern part of our country, beefing up the "advisors" contingent there under the guise of "technical personnel" and "diplomatic officers," handing over to the Saigon command many military bases and strengthening US logistic installations in Japan, Thailand and the Philippines while increasing US naval and air forces in the Pacific and Thailand.

US professed desire for a prompt negotiated settlement of the conflict and for peace in Viet Nam clashes with its efforts to reinforce the Saigon army and administration into more effective tools for the continuation and escalation of the Vietnamized war. At US instigation, the Thieu gang have been closing down universities, reducing the staff of various offices, enforcing fascist lats to draft students, civil servants and even religious priests. Along with stepped-up saturation bombings in North and South Viet Nam, tens of thousands of police operations have been carried out, under the pacification progamme, on the liberated areas, various measures suppressing democratic freedoms, persecution against all sections of the people and extortionist impositions have been resorted to in urban centres. Such steps only spell out US intention to consolidate its client regime, wipe out and repress other political forces, do away with the Provisional Revolutionary Government and Liberation Armed Forces, continue US occupation and neo-colonialist rule in South Viet Nam. The US has just announced its resumption of bombing and strafing of all the territory of North Viet Nam, more mining of its rivers and air raids on Hanoi, Haiphong and other towns' populated areas.

WHAT does the US want? All its current military and diplomatic moves are answer enough. They are all geared to the fulfilment of the Vietnamization project. They are all aimed at buying time to secure a position of strength to carry on "Vietnamization," to have the advantage of its opponent at the conference table to keep South Viet Nam in its neo-colonialist orbit, to cow the Vietnamese into accepting US peace terms.

Any Viet Nam settlement must be based on the principles the US wants to reconsider, as mentioned above, on complete US military disinvolvement in South Viet Nam, recognition of its realities which are the existence of two political regimes, two armies and three political forces, setting up of a tri-partite Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and enforcement of democratic liberties in this part of the country. Those are immutable principles which cannot be subject to any bargaining. No acceptable solution to the Viet Nam issue is possible without due respect for them.

The present US efforts throw a strong light on its design to renege on those basic tenets of the accord reached. This accounts for the delay in its signing and the stalemate in the talks, for which

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Ready return-blows at Nixon's bellicosity

South Viet Nam Committee for Freedom of Patriotic and Peace-Loving People Founded

On December 15, Representatives of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee, and of other political, religious, juridical and humanitarian and mass organisations have held a meeting under the chairmanship of Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the VNANDPF, in the liberated zone of South Viet Nam to hear a report on the US-Thieu criminal schemes and acts of terror, repression and massive killing of patriots and other peace-loving people illegally detained in various prisons and camps across South Viet Nam.

The representatives denounced and condemned with vehemence the US-Thieu vicious scheme and extremely barbarous acts of terrorizing, poisoning and massacring prisoners regardless of age or sex, without distinction of political tendencies and religions, even former members of the Saigon administration and army, as well as Thieu's opponents.

The meeting unanimously decided to set up a South Viet Nam Committee to Struggle for the Freedom of Patriots and Other Peace-Loving People. The chairman of the committee is Superior Bonze Thich Thien Hao, Chairman of the South Viet Nam Luc Hoa Buddhist Association, and its Secretary-General is Vo Dong Giang, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Struggle Committee Issued Urgent Appeal

THE South Viet Nam Committee of Struggle for the Freedom of Patriotic and Peace-loving People illegally detained by the US aggressors and Thieu, has issued an urgent calling on the people throughout Viet Nam and all the people of conscience the world over to denounce the US-Thieu acts of repression and massacre of patriotic and peace-loving people illegally detained by them in South Viet Nam.

The appeal said :

"Over the past eighteen years, since the US imperialists intervened in and invaded South Viet Nam and set up a puppet administration which rules the people by force, more and more prisons and detention camps have been built. In all those hells-on-earth, they have detained without time limit several hundreds of thousands of people of all walks of life, ages and social standings in South Viet Nam. They are confined in "tiger cages," a new device of the US imperialists to detain prisoners.

The detainees are penned up in dark and narrow cells where they live under conditions. They are subjected to all kinds of barbarous medieval tortures inflicted by Thieu agents together with modern torturing devices of the US which have been ceaselessly improved in accordance with the so-called "program to improve and intensify prison equipment." Hundreds of thousands of executioners trained and commanded by US "technical advisors" have been daily torturing our countrymen and combatants both bodily and mentally. Innumerable persons have been maimed for life. Many women have been made sterile. Many others are writhing with pain or subjected to a slow death.

At present, the situation has become more urgent than ever before. In face of their bitter failure "Vietnamization" of the war policy, the US aggressors and Thieu have committed loathsome crimes. With their white terror campaign, they have been conducting thousands of round-ups every week, arresting hundreds of thousands of people accused of "sympathizing or having relations" with the revolution, those of the "opposition" and persons standing for peace and national concord... They even shoot dead on the spot those whom they accuse of "violating" their fascist laws...

Their prisons and detention camps across South Viet Nam are the scenes of massive persecution, terror, poisoning and massacre of patriotic and peace-loving people. They have classified and drawn up lists of prisoners branded as "intractable" and "to be persecuted resolutely but secretly", and have taken "suitable measures" to "surmount difficulties" once there is a cease-fire and exchange of prisoners of war.

The US aggressors and Thieu laid down the norms for assassination of political prisoners for various localities. Recently, everal thousand persons branded as "most dangerous" have been listed to be urgently destroyed. They have carried out this plan with different methods and vicious tricks. By fabricating fallacious evidences, they shot dead large numbers of prisoners. They ordered thugs to kill prisoners and then cooked up stories of prisoners killing one another. They poisoned the food given to prisoners, killing many of them at a time. They have transferred the prisoners from one jail to another, dispersed them to separate cells or sent them in small groups to do hard labor so they can easily murder them.

Every night, Thieu agents drag prisoners out of their cells and dispose them of. They staged the farce of "amnesty" but killed the prisoners right after the latter got out of the prison gate or on their way home. Innumerable prisoners were thrown into the sea without being able to say adieu to their loved ones.

Words fail to describe all the barbarous tricks used by the US aggressors and Thieu to destroy prisoners.

With their white terror campaign against the people and massacre of patriotic and other peace-loving people detained by them in various prisons, the US aggressors and Thieu aim at destroying both the revolutionary and "opposition" forces to maintain a dictatorial fascist regime and carry out the "Nixon doctrine" even in case an Agreement on Ending the War in Viet Nam is signed. With such criminal acts, the US aggressors and Thieu have grossly trampled underfoot the South Vietnamese people's democratic liberties and aspirations for peace and national concord, seriously violating the most elementary international laws, reneging even the provisions freshly agreed upon though not yet signed, causing high indignation among the Vietnamese people and insolently challenging peace- and justice-loving people around the world.

The Committee calls on the Governments of all countries, international organizations, the American people and justice- and peace-loving people around the world, intellectuals, personalities, scientists, religious people, lawyers and law organizations and journalists... for the sake of justice and humanity, to strongly condemn the US-Thieu brutal crimes and take effective actions to stay their bloody hands."

in the cities

+ Hundreds of thousands of Buddhist monks and nuns and inhabitants of Tra Vinh, Ben Tre and Can Tho provinces staged marches on various district towns and provincial capitals to petition for immediate US signing of the peace agreement reached with the DRVN. The placard-carrying demonstrators also urged that Thieu resign and stop at once all terror and reprisals against patriots, and the drafting of monks, nuns and others into its army.

+ Once again, the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu has ordered Saigon citizens to paint slogans on a yellow-red tin plate 8 inches by 32. The two drives will have cost the people 450 million piastres. Angry protests have been raised.

+ A number of Saigon professors have termed the Saigon regime's education system backward and slavish. They have denounced the planting of Thieu's agents in the ranks of educationists under the campus pacification program, and demanded reorganisation of the whole system.

+ Recently Thieu's induction centres have had to discharge over 400 student and pupil draftees. It was an initial success for the school and university anti-draft. Together with others, students and pupils are stepping up their action for the release of their enlisted mates, and cancellation of the on-the-spot mobilization order directed against them.

+ Low-salary public employees in Saigon have made it known that since 1971, the Thieu gang has raised the monthly house rents from 500 to 2,500 and 5,000 piastres, and the prices of prefabricated houses from 52,000 to 400,000 piastres each. The rents paid to the Thieu clique by these employees in the past 20 years have trebled the cost of house building.

+ Saigon—Gia Dinh people have held hundreds of direct confrontations with the quisling administration, for reduction of the curfew hours and exemption of guard duty for old agers and women, and against flag-flying, slogan painting and house and land taxes. Thousands of small traders have also come out against taxes and fines.

+ In the first week of December alone, the Thieu clique successively confiscated 5 newspaper issues. *Dien Tin, Cong Luan* and other dailies were seized for several days in a row. Saigon press and college circles said Thieu's "free" regime must be removed.

+ The Thieu regime had decreed many new impositions to extort more money from the urban population. Each private clinic must pay at least 10,000 piastres in taxes and private maternity homes 400 piastres for every bed. Taxes on textile dealers amount to from 2,400 to 7,000 piastres. In addition, shops must pay licence and other fees. Taxes on real estates, house roofs, occupation of pavement, advertising, etc. have doubled or trebled. This year, the Thieu regime has collected 158 million piastres in taxes on landed property in Saigon and the figure will rise to 287 million in 1973.

+ Hundreds of workers employed by the *Tin Phat* textile mill have protested against the arbitrary dismissal of many women-workers by the owners with the abetment of Thieu's men. They have also demanded improvement of working conditions, reinstatement of the laid-off workers and abolition of the system of control over the workers.

+ Thousands of people of Rach Gia province have marched on the administration office of Giong Rieng district in protest against the arrest and detention of patriotic families, military draft and extortion of money from the population. Many members of the Saigon army and administration as well as Saigon war invalids have joined their movement. Hard-pressed, the governor of Rach Gia province has had to promise satisfaction of their claims.

Central Trung Bo Plains:

PLAF actions and successes

THE impetuous wave of offensives and uprisings in the plains of Central Trung Bo has given a shot into the arm of the South Viet Nam revolution.

The enemy has been driven out of important areas and an extensive liberated zone carved out which makes it possible for the local patriots to improve their offensive posture.

Following up their far-reaching successes in Binh Dinh, Quang Nam and the six lowland provinces, the local PLAF recorded new ones in late October and throughout November at Ba To, Que Son and around the cities of Da Nang and Hoai An.

The US-Saigon command mustered troops into counter-attacks to reconquer lost territory, especially urban centres and military sectors. But not only have they failed in recapturing any important area, but they have been also battered in many localities: the suffered 1,800 casualties at Ba To (Quang Ngai), 1,000 at Que Son (Quang Nam) and 700 at Da Nang and Hoai An (Quang Da). Meantime the Rangers' border position at Da Ban (Quang Ngai) was erased and the district towns of Mo Duc, Duc Pho, Son Tinh and the provincial capital of Tam Ky (Quang Nam) came again under heavy fire. Remarkably enough, the November 9 raid destroyed thousands of tons of hardware, and the shelling of the Da Nang airbase wrecked a number of planes and vehicles. As a result, the adverse repressive system has been strongly shaken: well over a hundred hamlets have been entirely liberated or brought under revolutionary power.

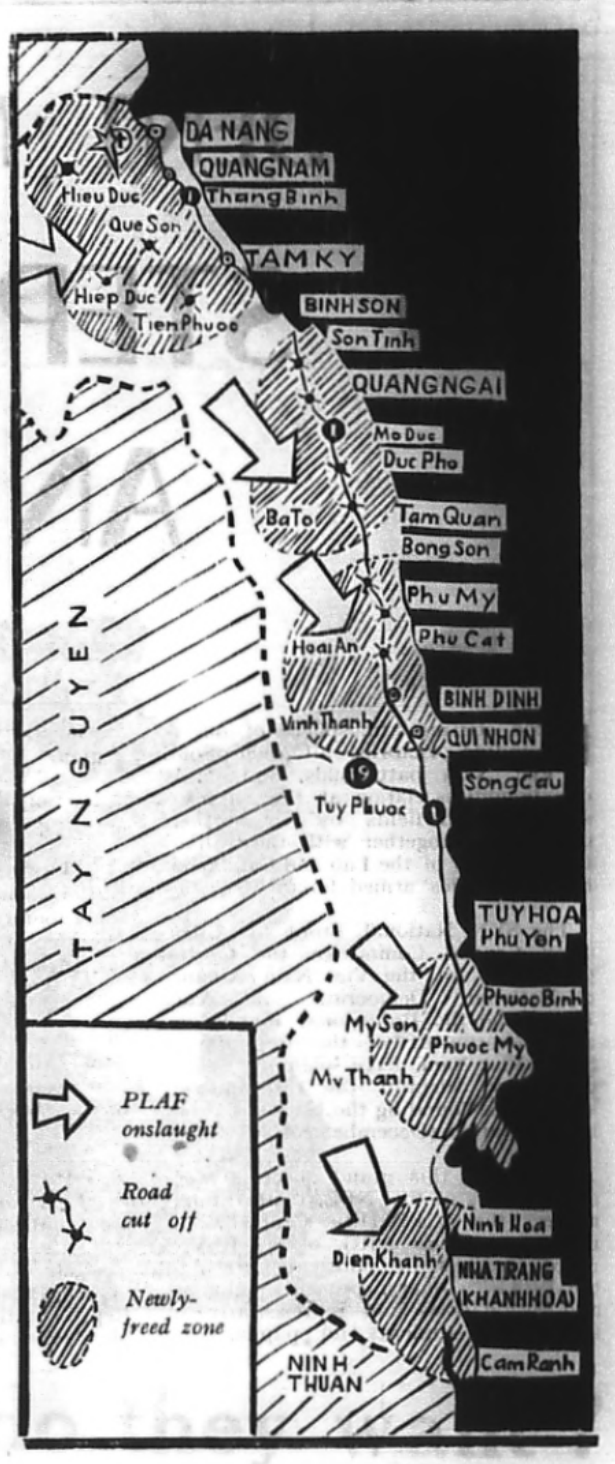
In Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa provinces, guerilla warfare has been expanding not only in various districts but also around provincial cities and sea ports like Nha Trang and Cam Ranh.

In one month beginning late October, throughout the plains of Central Trung Bo, enemy losses ran to 4,550 men put out of action, one battalion and 16 companies knocked out, 125 military vehicles destroyed, and 26 aircraft downed or wrecked. Thousands of people rose up and dismantled strategic hamlets, erased large bits of Saigon's repressive system and returned to their villages. Toward the end of November, 6 districts were freed: Hoai An, Hoai Nhon, Vinh Thac, Ba To, Que Son and Hiep Duc. Entirely liberated villages, laying in one stretch, have appeared while areas controlled by revolutionary authorities at various degrees have been extended to the immediate neighbourhood or urban centres.

The pacification program in the plains of Central Trung Bo has met with such a serious fiasco that the Americans do not even know who controls the hamlets in the coastal region (*AFP*, October 19).

Along with devastating blows at Division 2 and ranger units at Que Son and Ba To, the wiping out and disbanding of civil guard and militia forces, as well as the shattering of the quisling administration at the grass-roots level, have given a tremendous impetus to popular insurrections in the six coastal provinces.

In the process of the fighting, the people and liberation troops have rapidly boosted their military and political forces both quantitatively and qualitatively. The political forces of the masses are closely knit and aptly led organizations which know how to apply their rich experience to the specific conditions of their localities. They have provided effective help to the building of the armed forces. In Binh Dinh, the regional and guerilla forces thus built have been considerably strengthened; they arm themselves with weapons captured from the enemy, take part in combat and increase their build-up as they fight. In Quang Ngai guerilla warfare has been strongly and evenly developing: in several districts guerilla fighters and regional troops overwhelm civil guards and militiamen, and, in closely concerted action, prove devastating for the pacification program at the village and hamlet levels.



Bien Hoa logistic base pounded by PLAF artillery

At present, enemy strength in the plains of Central Trung Bo is seriously declining. Division 2, and two regiments of Division 22 after their debacle at Que Son, Ba To and in North Binh Dinh are patching up their troop-strength to cope with their opponent's punches. The US-Saigon Command is doing its best to replenish Division 3 heavily depleted at Quang Tri. For all those efforts the mercenaries cannot but dig in in their positions around Da Nang apparently to avoid disastrous head-on clashes with liberation forces. Large bits of the Saigon forces have been crushed and strong defence lines south and south-west of Da Nang shattered at Que Son, Thang Binh and Tien Phuoc. The rural defence network has also been blotted out in several districts. It is safe to conclude that the US-Saigon military disposition along the coastal area has been chopped up, isolated and heavily threatened in its most important section, i.e. from Binh Dinh to Quang Nam.

Those are very favourable conditions for the local armed forces and people to press their attacks and gain greater successes in the near future.

DIEN AN

At the solemn meeting to mark the 12th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL

PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO APPEALS TO STEP UP THE FIGHT WITH PATIENCE AND VIGOUR TILL TOTAL VICTORY

IN the stirring atmosphere of our resounding victories all over South Viet Nam battlefields, and amidst our boundless elation at the successes scored in all fields by our northern compatriots, together with the brilliant feats of arms of the Lao and Cambodian brother peoples' armed forces.

The SVN National Front for Liberation Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam have solemnly held a meeting to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the founding the National Front for Liberation (December 20).

Present at this grand meeting were all members of the NFL Central Committee, the VNANDPF Central Committee and the PRG of the RSVN, representatives of political parties, of the PLAF, workers, peasants, religious and nationalities and representative of intellectuals, students and pupils, businessmen, traders and people in the region.

Participating in the presidium of the meeting were :

— Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the National Front for Liberation Central Committee and President of the Advisory Council of the PRG of the RSVN ;

— Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and Vice-President of the Advisory Council of the RSVN PRG ;

— Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam ;

— Mr Vo Chi Cong, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL CC and Representative of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party ;

— Mr Ibih Aleo, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL CC and President of the High Plateaux Nationalities' Movement for Autonomy ;

— Mr Phan Xuan Thai, member of the Presidium of the NFL CC and President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions ;

— Mr Nguyen Huu The, member of the President of the NFL CC and President of the SVN Liberation Peasants' Association ;

— Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, Member of the Presidium of the NFL CC, President of the SVN Liberation Women's Union and Deputy-Commander of the People's Liberation Armed Forces ;

— Superior Bonze Thich Thien Hao, member of the Presidium of the NFL CC and President of the Viet Nam Luc Nam Hoa Buddhist Association ;

— Nguyen Van Ngoi, member of the Presidium of the NFL CC and President of the Tien Thien Cao Dai sect ;

— Mr Tran Bach Dang, Member of the Presidium of the NFL CC and President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Youth Union ;

— The Reverend Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba, member of the Presidium of the NFL CC and President of the Patriotic Catholics' Association ;

— Bonze Huynh Van Tri, member of the Advisory Council of the PRG of the RSVN and Representative of the Hoa Hao Buddhists ;

— Ung Ngoc Ky, Representative of the SVN Democratic Party ;

— Nguyen Ngoc Thuong, Representative of the South Viet Nam Radical Socialist Party.

Prolonged applause saluted the presidium of the meeting led to the rostrum by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL CC, and President of the RSVN Advisory Council. The meeting opened with lowering the flag and the "Let's liberate South Viet Nam" hymn played by the Army band. A minute of silence was observed in the memory of the fighters and compatriots who died on the field.

President Nguyen Huu Tho delivered an important speech at the meeting.

He said :

"Twelve years ago amid the seething revolutionary tide in the atmosphere of broad solidarity of the historic concerted uprising, the SVN National Front for Liberation was founded.

Over the past twelve years, under the SVN NFL's glorious flag, the SVN Liberation Army and people have gained brilliant successes. They have defeated all strategies of the US war of aggression and are seriously bankrupting the strategy of "Vietnamization" of the war.

After reviewing the big victories of the current offensive and uprising of the SVN Liberation Army and people, especially since March 30 this year, he emphasized :

"The high tide of the stormy offensive and uprising since March 30 last is strongly developing on all battlefields in South Viet Nam in the rainy as well as dry seasons. This has greatly changed the balance of forces between us and the enemy. It has created an unprecedentedly favorable situation for the revolutionary forces and enabled them to bring into play our initiative of action in South Viet Nam as well as in the whole of Indochina. It is obvious that we are on an upward and victorious position while the enemy is on a downward and losing position."

On behalf of the Central Committee of the SVN NFL and the PRG RSVN, he warmly congratulated the three kinds of the People's Liberation Army, the localities, people's administration and branches for overcoming all sacrifices and hardships caused by US bombing and shelling and achieving resounding victories that rejoiced the people throughout the country and friends in the five continents. He expressed deep gratitude of the SVN armed forces and people to the people in the north, the big rear, who have wholeheartedly supported the big front and to the fraternal countries of Laos and Cambodia, the peoples and governments of the socialist countries, and brothers and friends the world over, including the progressive American people for their valuable support and assistance.

He stressed that the big victories of the South Viet Nam liberation forces and people and the heavy losses of the US on the battlefield, in the United States and in the world, had forced the US to agree to an agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam on October 20 last. He pointed out :

"Had the terms of the Agreement been carried out, peace would have been restored in Viet Nam, and all the mourning and suffering of the American and Vietnamese peoples would have ended. This would also be the way for the US to get out in honour from the dirty war in Viet Nam. However, obstinate and bellicose by nature, the US imperialists still refuse to give up their aggressive manoeuvres. They have brazenly reneged on their words and used the Nguyen Van Thieu clique of traitors as an obstacle to delay and sabotage the signing of the peace Agreement."

President Nguyen Huu Tho vehemently condemned the US about-face and its massive delivery of weapons, war means and sending of hundreds of thousands of disguised military advisors to South Viet Nam to prolong its aggressive war and its involvement, to negotiate on a position of strength and maintain US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

The participants were informed by President Nguyen Huu Tho of the new and serious act of war escalation taken by the US aggressors by massively bombing Hanoi and Haiphong and many other densely populated areas in the North.

They shouted : "Down with the US imperialists !" The President said : "If the US aggressors attack North once, the people and liberation armed forces in South Viet Nam will punish them five and ten times harder !"

President Nguyen Huu Tho exposed the dark schemes, barbarous crimes and treacherous moves of the Nixon administration for "digging tens of millions of bomb craters on the soil of Viet Nam and killing numerous civilians." He sternly condemned Nguyen Van Thieu for brutally murdering detained patriots, seriously threatening the lives of the best sons of the fatherland and feverishly carrying out a white terror campaign, feverishly militarising the puppet administrative machine and issuing many more fascist decrees.

President Nguyen Huu Tho reaffirmed the iron-determination of the South Vietnamese people to persist in and push ahead the fight to total victory. "No brutal force, no perfidious schemes can shake that determination", he said.

On behalf of the NFL and PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam, President Nguyen Huu Tho called on the entire PLAF and people to strengthen their unity. He evoked the Declaration adopted by the joint Conference between the NFL and VNANDPF on November 3, 1972, made clear the policy of national reconciliation and concord aimed at dismissing all enmity and encouraging mutual love among the Vietnamese people so as together to push ahead the national salvation fight against the US aggressors.

This is the foremost and basic policy at present as well as in the future.

On behalf of the NFL and the PRG, President Nguyen Huu Tho made an appeal to the South Vietnamese and their armed forces to step up offensives and uprisings so as to smash the "Vietnamization" of the war and to wrest back independence and freedom.

Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the VNANDPF, the delegates of political parties, mass organizations, nationalities, religious communities and the representatives of the PLAF delivered speeches paying tribute to the 12th founding anniversary of the NFL. They reiterated their resolve to mobilize their communities to further tighten national union and develop their winning posture and initiative, to launch offensives and uprisings on all fronts, co-ordinating them with diplomatic struggle, so as to foil completely the "Vietnamization" of the war and compel the US to sign the Agreement to end the war and restore peace in Viet Nam.

The meeting wound up with slogans vigorously shouted : "Hail the 12th anniversary of the NFL !", "Let's implement President Ho Chi Minh's sacred Testament !", "Let's fight on with vigour and patience for national salvation till total victory !"

PLAF artillery co-ordinating with infantry in each offensive drive

One shot, one tank shattered

What do they want ?

(Continued from page 1)

the Nixon administration must take all the blame.

The South Vietnamese people, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government as well as the people and government of the DRVN have shown unquestionable seriousness and good-will in this connection. Our people are deeply attached to peace, independence and freedom. But they also set their faces against US-Thieu preposterous demands, stick to the agreement already concluded on October 20, 1972 and insist on its immediate signing.

If the Nixon administration persists in its dilatory tactics, bad faith, Vietnamization of the war and military escalations, our people will also persist in their resistance effort. It has lasted over a quarter century. It can perfectly go on until complete success.

As long as there is aggression, resistance to aggression will not stop. The boot is on the other leg, i.e. the US side. The latter will only court more serious setbacks. The South Vietnamese people and armed forces are on advantage ground. They are entering the 9th month of their wave of strategic offensives and uprisings. They are making steady headway on all battlefields, inflicting severe hurt on "pacification" and expanding constantly their liberated areas. Meanwhile, the North Vietnamese people and armed forces are fighting and producing with an unprecedented enthusiasm, assisting the South with unqualified dedication and boosting their defense and economic potentials with might and main. Our friends in all continents are displaying the warmest sympathy and support ever, while the flow of aid from the brother socialist countries keeps streaming in uninterrupted, and is likely to become more abundant, as indicated by the newly-signed Viet Nam-USSR and Viet Nam-China military and economic aid agreements. The South Vietnamese people will follow up their military, political and diplomatic gains with fresh ones until the dismal failure of US-Thieu dark designs and the complete triumph of our battle against US aggression, for national salvation.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Statement of DRVN Foreign Ministry on

US imperialist aggressors' extremely serious war escalation

ON December 19, the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued the following statement:

"From 19:15 hrs of December 18 to the morning of December 19, 1972, the US imperialists sent hundreds of plane sorties, including B.52 strategic bombers, for repeated attacks on many areas of Hanoi capital city, Haiphong city and the provinces of Ha Tay, Ha Bac, Vinh Phu, Yen Bai, Nam Ha, Quang Ninh, etc., perpetrating extremely heinous crimes. The armed forces and people in Hanoi, Haiphong and the other localities mentioned above, highly vigilant and fighting very well, made firm riposte, shooting down many aircraft and wiping out or capturing a number of US pilots.

These intensified and enlarged attacks against North Viet Nam constitute an extremely serious step of war escalation and an utterly insolent challenge to the peace- and justice-loving people in the world including the American people.

It is universal knowledge that the US government on October 20, 1972 agreed with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on the text of an agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam. But, right after that, the US government committed a breach of faith by refusing to sign this agreement and taking a series of acts in blatant violation of the provisions already agreed upon, such as by hastely introducing tens of thousands of tons of weapons and war means and tens of thousands of disguised military advisors into South Viet Nam and hectically stepping up the war of extermination in both parts of Viet Nam.

Most recently, in private meetings with the DRVN side, the US side demanded the modification of many points in the contents of the agreement. On the other hand, the US has prompted the puppet Thieu administration to make public these completely absurd demands in an attempt to scrap whatever has been agreed upon and paving the way for sabotaging the implementation of the agreement. Yet, on Dec. 12, 1972, the US gave a false interpretation of the truth. Playing thief-crying- "stop thief!", it shifted the blame on to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

It is as clear as day-light that each of the new steps taken by the US imperialists to escalate the war is premeditated and planned to prolong and intensify their war of aggression and secure a position of strength in negotiation. These rabid acts of the US, however, cannot improve its critical situation in South Viet Nam. On the contrary, they will only show more clearly the deceitful character of its professions of "desire" for peace and "seriousness" in negotiation.

So, the Nixon administration is trying to force on the Vietnamese people, by means of bombs and shells, a solution to the Viet Nam issue on US terms. This, of course, is only a vain attempt.

The Vietnamese people, staunch and indomitable, will punish the US imperialists duly for each of their acts of war escalation, and will make a complete failure of their attempt to negotiate from a position of strength and foil all their crafty moves at the conference table.

The Vietnamese want peace, peace with independence and freedom. As long as the US imperialists obdurately try to prolong and step up the war, the people in the whole of Viet Nam, millions as one man, will resolutely overcome all hardships and sacrifices and exert themselves to materialize the Testament of the beloved President Ho Chi Minh by persisting in and step up their struggle against US aggression and for national salvation, till complete victory.

The DRVN Government seriously condemns and strongly denounces to world public opinion the rabid act of war escalation of the US imperialist aggressors, and resolutely demands that the Nixon administration stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam, give up its policy of 'Vietnamizing' the war, and stop its bombing, mining, blockade and all other war acts against the DRVN.

The Nixon administration must bear full responsibility for all serious consequences of its criminal acts.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government earnestly call upon the peoples and governments of the brother socialist countries and the peace- and justice-loving countries in the world, international organizations, the American people and the people throughout the world to stay in time the bloody hands of the US imperialist aggressors, demand the Nixon administration to sign at once the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam reached on October 20, 1972, and increase their support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's struggle in all fields, military, political and diplomatic, till complete victory."

Northern militia punishing Nixon's rash escalation

In a Week

53 US planes including *18 B.52's, 5 F.III's shot down*

SINCE the night of December 18, 1972, US aircraft, including B.52 strategic bombers, have launched night and day air attacks of unprecedented scale and cruelty, destroying many densely populated areas belonging to Hanoi, Haiphong and in many provinces of North Viet Nam, thus piling up countless barbarous crimes against civilian people.

The US aggressors have been duly punished. The people and their armed forces, including anti-aircraft artillery, missile units, air forces, home-guards and militia in Hanoi capital city, Haiphong city and other areas in North Viet Nam have put up an extremely heroic and staunch fight, and recorded glorious feats: from December 18 to 24, they have shot down 53 US planes including 18 B.52's, 5 F.111's, set ablaze 8 warships, wiped out or captured many American pilots.

On December 24, the USAF total losses in North Viet Nam has so farbeen brought to **4,131.**

the DRVN in brief

— Tens of thousands of youths in Lang Son, Ha Tinh and Bac Thai provinces have enlisted in the army. While waiting for their turn to go to the front, they have joined village militia units and taken part in the repairing of A.A shelters and trenches and in the building of additional combat positions.

— This year, many handicraft enterprises in Hanoi, including those manufacturing bricks and tiles and processing sand, etc. have mechanized their production so as to lighten the work of their artisans. They have also paid due regard to enforcing new regulations, such as those on sick leave, incapacitation...

— Despite climatic adversities the provinces of Lang Son, Vinh Phu and Ha Giang have harvested a bumper crop of rice grown both in irrigated fields and milpas. In many places the yield ranged from 5.1 tons to 6.1 tons per hectare, sometimes 8 tons.

— According to a special communiqué released on December 8 by the Committee for Investigation of US War Crimes in Viet Nam, from April 14 to November 30, 1972, US tactical jets (F.4, F.105, F.111) flew 9,600 sorties and B.52s nearly 200 sorties over Ha Tinh township, Duc Tho town and 206 villages of 8 districts in Ha Tinh province. 42,800 blast and explosive bombs, 2,370 magnetic bombs and time-bombs were dumped; hundreds of missiles, thousands of rockets and 20mm shells were fired. The totality of its dwelling houses, the provincial hospital, stadium, people's theatre, restaurant, cemetery, many creches, kindergartens and infant classes were destroyed.

— Despite heavy US air bombing and a severe drought, an adequate supply of mechanized agricultural tools has been delivered to help the Autumn rice season. Mechanized ploughs and harrows have tilled 68,634 hectares and 141,814 hectares have been ploughed in excess of the norms by from 7 to 10 percent.

— The Engineering and Electricity College has held a graduation ceremony for a third batch comprising 248 engineers belonging to the following disciplines: engineering production, electrification of factories, laminating of steel, metallurgy.

— Determined to "do everything for our victory over US aggression," the rice-producing villages of Nghe An province have defied US bombings, and sown in season spring rice and transplanted 60,000 hectares above plan.

— During the drive of US raids on the province, new items of good were produced by Quang Ninh small industry and handicrafts. 120 tons of raw materials were made full use of to turn out commodities for the fighting, production and civilian consumption.

The gamble is not worth the candle

IN these last days of the year, Nixon is in a position to ponder over the consequences of his bad faith in delaying the signing of the draft Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam reached between the DRVN and the United States on October 20, 1972. Had the United States honoured its commitments and implemented what had been agreed upon, peace would have been restored and the longest and most tragic war in the history of America would have ended, and after so many years of bogging down in it, the United States would have been able to buckle down to settle its long standing internal problems and refurbish its seriously dimmed image in the world.

While drumming up a noisy campaign to make believe that peace was at hand, the US side used one pretext after another to prolong the war. What was the Nixon administration after? The answer to this has been supplied by a series of its actions since late October.

The US has urgently and massively sent armament and war materials to Nguyen Van Thieu. One cannot overlook the fast tempo and great quantity of these deliveries. Within only half a month, the US handed over to its agents more than 600 aircraft of various kinds including such up-to-date types as the C-130 which the Saigon quislings cannot yet handle. This is nearly one third of the number of aircraft supplied by the US to them during the past four years of "Vietnamization." Moreover the US also declared its intention to leave behind in South Viet Nam the whole of the commanding officers and military advisers of the US now conveniently called "military experts" to better suit the "peace goodwill" of Washington. According to the *New York Times* of November 27, 1972, these civilian experts now number ten thousand and will take over an unlimited number of tasks, like managing the military personnel of the Saigon regime and the modern weapons and equipment left behind by the US, and training of the Saigon air force. Meanwhile, according to disclosures by the Pentagon, the Nixon administration will maintain the presence of US troops and air force units in Thailand for an indefinite period of time. These US armed forces, as is known to everybody, have used Thailand as a staging area for attacks on both zones of Viet Nam all through the past years. And there are also the Seventh Fleet, Okinawa...

On US orders, the Saigon administration has launched counter-attacks with maximum US air and naval support, on the liberated zone of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and at the same time stepped up its white terror of an unprecedented scale and unheard-of atrocity in the areas under its control.

Such deeds are completely at variance with Washington's protestations of its "constructive" and "serious" attitude in seeking an end to the war. On the contrary, they can only lead to the conclusion that the US is still not seriously seeking a just solution to the Viet Nam war but wants to gain time to change the situation on the battlefield and win a "position of strength" on the diplomatic front with the ultimate aim of dictating its peace terms to the people of South Viet Nam.

How can one conclude otherwise?

However, after so many costly war ventures during more than ten years past to the same effect, will the new US tactics pay off this time? The answer, as can be inferred from facts in South Viet Nam over the past two months, is no.

Once again, the electronic computers have disastrously failed to give Washington an accurate appraisal of an opponent of the Vietnamese stamp. Time has never worked for the aggressors. In Viet Nam, more than anywhere else, it has been fully demonstrated that the longer the war drags on, the more the balance of forces changes in favour of the patriots. This trend is all the more obvious in the present situation.

What have the furious counter-attacks of the best Saigon outfits produced as results? All of their "sharpest" prongs have been broken. Not only have they brought about none of the hoped-for successes even cost dearly in manpower and war materials. In November 1972, another 32,000 Saigon troops were put out of action on the South Viet Nam battlefield. In Quang Tri alone where the US and Saigon administrations have concentrated their war and propaganda efforts, in the period from early November to December 8, 1972, nearly 10,000 more Saigon troops mostly paratroops and marines were knocked out of action. Meanwhile the so-called operation to recover recaptured lost territories in Cong Trang La and Duc Co region in the Central Viet Nam High Plateaux also ended with the Saigon casualty rate boosted to 300 in less than 48 hours on December 4 and 5. Ranger units sent as reinforcements also took serious beatings. Along the bloody Highway 13, the quislings have failed to recapture Quan Loi region and lift the siege on An Loc town. In the meantime, the liberation forces have been tightening their noose on, and steadily moving closer to the areas around Saigon.

Another example: Along with the abovesaid semi-strategic counter-offensives, nearly 5,000 cadets have been sent to various localities to help the local administration cope with the popular armed uprisings and more of the police dispatched to the countryside to strengthen their shaky coercive machine there. But all these major exertions have yielded no better fruits than the counter-attacks did. In November alone, the People's Libertion Armed Forces liberated hundreds more of villages and hamlets, and moved ever closer to the fringes of the towns and district towns and the strategic communication lines. In contrast with the braggings of the Saigon military spokesman, *AFP* noted on November 21 that the relative calm on the Viet Nam battlefield was only skin-deep. "In fact," it said, "there had been a considerable increase in the activity, infiltration and attacks of the liberation forces in the countryside in all the four military regions of the Saigon regime."

"As far as pacification is concerned," *AFP* continued, "its regression is very sensible in the provinces of Quang Nam and Quang Tin and to a lesser degree in Thua Thien whose capital is Hue. In the province of Quang Ngai, fortress of the Viet Cong, as well as in Binh Dinh province, the pacification program has never been a success. Except a few villages which are strongly anti-communist, decay is now almost generalized. In the military region, the forces of Saigon are meeting with still bigger difficulties, especially in the High Plateaux and Binh Dinh province. In the provinces of the Third military region (around Saigon), the guerillas are pushing up their activity and political propaganda campaign. As for the Fouth military region which is by far the richest and most populated area of South Viet Nam, it is a certainty that the other side is concentrating its efforts in anticipation of a ceasefire. Finally in the southernmost part of the country, in the provinces of Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, An Giang and Chuong Thien, the other side has practically recaptured the control of sectors which 'pacification' and denied them two years ago."

Is there any need for further comments?

Meanwhile, many things "unwanted" by the US-Saigon regime have happened. Its army's morale has been rapidly sinking and desertions increasing at a rate as never seen before. According to the *Christian Science Monitor* of November 28, 1972, quoting informed sources in Saigon, since August this year, the number of desertions has exceeded the July and August rate of 20,000 which is higher than the official casualty figure. To a regular army of about 500,000 men such a desertion rate represents a heavy drain.

As to its cause, Saigon officers themselves have remarked that no one wanted to be the last to die before a cease-fire... Another factor is that the Saigon administration has been exerting itself to upgrade the paramilitary forces to its regular army, but this has only brought about ever higher casualties among its troops during its "counter-attacks." Another factor, from the own admission of the same officers, is the propaganda effort of the opponent which concentrates on driving home that the communists will forgive and admit into their own ranks any one who has been forced to fight for the government but is now ready to down arms."

There is another "desertion" which may be not so important quantatively but is not less important in significance, that is the break-away from the anti-communist and anti-popular cause of those who have taken part or are taking part in one or another branch or service of the Saigon administration. In the recent past, there has been a noticeable change of language in those who once seemed never reconciled to live under the same sky with the resistance members. They have been more widely and more vocally demanding that Thieu resign in one way or another to pave the way for a broad government in Saigon, a government competent to talk with "the other side". Each has spoken this out in his own way and to one degree or another but one thing is certain: more and more people are talking of this same thing.

Above are only some aspects of the present military and political conjuncture in South Viet Nam over the past two months. They, however, are enough to give food for thought to anyone who still dreams of winning a position of strength, even of continuing "Vietnamization." As for the people of South Viet Nam, they have made every preparation to meet all contingencies with an unflagged determination. If the US refused to end its war of aggression through a just political solution guaranteeing full respect for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, the Vietnamese have no other choice than to keep up their fight till complete victory, with the firm conviction that time is on their side and final victory belongs to them.

VAN DUC

Here and there

Ignominy

On December 12, 1972, Thieu delivered a speech. Why not? He has a tongue, hasn't he? And better still, he knows how to enunciate all the human words, including those whose meaning completely escapes his canine intelligence. Canine is not *my* epithet but McGovern's or Mike Mansfield's, I believe.

Naturally under such circumstances, the vocables are horribly manhandled and often are given quite the opposites of their habitual acceptations. For example, in his meaning patriotism is just felony, compatriot enemy and liberty slavery... and the other way round. Which makes it awfully hard to make out what he means to say.

So, out of his dedicated zeal to ape his "emperor," the Saigon satrap happens to reiterate what the latter has "shelved" long ago as structurally impossible or rococo and to sound just the antipode of Nixon-at-this-juncture.

After four years of futile fury playing the conqueror, "His Majesty Dick the Great" had to declare his satisfaction with the draft accord recognizing Viet Nam's fundamental national rights, professedly ready to sign it and thereby respect our country's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and withdraw from it and put an end to all US aggression and intervention in Viet Nam.

But there and then Thieu, his loyal vassal, called for Viet Nam's subjection, its splitting into two zones—two "nations"!—, US indefinite presence under the signboard of "continued military and economic aid" with a view to liquidating the "communist aggressors" and so on and so forth.

There is however one word which Thieu did not pronounce once in his speech, out of either ignorance or sheer incapacity of enunciating it, that is: *Ignominy.*

Thick as thieves

In his desperate efforts to hang on to this tutelary god's apron-strings Thieu, under the lethal danger of being let down by every one, was gratified to hear a sympathetic voice, that of the Israeli government of Madame Golda Meir, target to a world boycott proposed recently by a US resolution.

Birds of a feather... It is indeed a well-assorted couple. One is a US hireling paid to murder his own fellow-countrymen and to invade Cambodia and Laos and to object to peace in Viet Nam. The other, a protégée of the US, assisted by US dollars, weaponry and support in seizing Palestine and invading many Arab countries. Both are ostracized by the community of the peoples, both branded by the entire mankind and whose union will only earn them more universal scorn.

At first happy with Golda's backing, Thieu could not help feeling some uneasiness when thinking of his other few friends and allies: the ageing opium addict Chiang Kai-shek now decaying in Taiwan, all the Bidaults and Vanuxems of France, relegated to oblivion by history... And also the sad Lon Nol who, crippled and afraid of ghosts and all occult power in general as he is, was still sagacious enough to let Israel and Saigon sign their alliance in Pnom Penh.

The signing however did take place, as announced. Where? At the US Embassy? Or in some sink of iniquity in Jerusalem? The tryst was keep secret for fear of an Arab coup. I am wondering whether Golda too was not under the apprehension that Thieu now on his last legs might also drag her along in his downfall?

HUONG NAM

Universal condemnation of US-Saigon

Persecution of patriots and peace advocates

"CRIMINALS are at their most dangerous when desperate," declared 29 well-known Yugoslavian scientists, professors and writers in a statement in support of the Dec. 3 appeal by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. This is precisely the state of the US-Saigon regime at present, and its secret elimination of patriots and peace advocates illegally detained in prisons throughout South Viet Nam is being condemned with force around the world.

The Stockholm Committee on Viet Nam has, in an appeal made at a present enlarged session, pointed out: "While delaying the signing of the cease-fire agreement, President Nixon is preparing not for the release of prisoners but for their extermination. This is a sinister fact.

These political prisoners include professors, monks, peasants, intellectuals, former MP's, workers, students and leaders of resistance groups against US aggression and the Thieu regime.

These people are women, old-agers, youths and even children. They have been imprisoned without trial and are being treated in an utterly inhuman manner. Many have been tortured by interrogators trained by US special agents, and by means and methods supplied by the US armed forces and the Central Intelligence Agency.

It is clear that these political prisoners are in great danger of their life and the Thieu regime wants to see them dead rather than alive. So, any further delay in the signing of the agreement will not only prolong their agony but also aggravate their danger.

President Nixon has spoken of a bloodbath in Viet Nam. But the real danger of such a bloodbath resides in the refusal to sign the peace agreement, which, in fact, is to give Thieu more time to prepare for, and carry out, the mass massacres of people he regards as his political foes."

The Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front has said:

"In execution of the US 'pacification' plan, the quisling Thieu administration is stepping up the repression and persecution of South Vietnamese on a larger scale in order to wipe out the forces of peace and abolish all civil liberties... That administration has enacted many fascist laws to repress and eliminate patriots and peace-lovers illegally detained by them. Such savage fascist acts of the US imperialists and their client Saigon regime blatently violate the fundamental national rights and democratic freedoms of the South Vietnamese people, and run counter to their ardent desire for peace and national concord. On the other hand they fire the indignation of the peoples of South Viet Nam and the world."

"In South Viet Nam all institutions of law have been abrogated," the Swedish Committee for Solidarity with the Vietnamese People has said. The Saigon militarists every day are carrying out white terror against the people of all sections. Opponents of the regime, be they Catholics, Buddhists, liberals, neutralists or communists, are suject to savage repression in the form of mass arrests, torture and secret executions. The prison regime of the tiger-cage type is applied widely. The US government has supplied the Saigon police and the Saigon regime with money, means and methods. Such a policy is against the Charter of Human Rights. We urge the US to stop these bloody brutalities and set free all patriots."

"While the world public is demanding that the US sign without delay the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam the quisling Nguyen Van Thieu administration and its patron US imperialist," the Association of Arab Lawyers has pointed out, "is murdering series of patriots and advocates of peace and national concord detained in South Viet Nam prisons. The AAL strongly condemns the Saigon regime and the US imperialists for these massacres and terror... The Saigon administration and the US imperialists must bear the full responsibility for these crimes."

And the Afro-Asian Writers Association has had this to say: "The Nguyen Van Thieu clique may imprison and destroy patriots physically, but they can never crush the firm will of the South Vietnamese people. Oppression always engenders resistance, and the greater the oppression, the stronger the resistance. The crimes of the fascist Saigon regime will only exasperate the hatred of the South Vietnamese people and stiffen their resolve to resist. And the entire world's peoples will support, with greater determination, the just cause of the South Vietnamese.

The sanguinary cruelties of the US and its agents in South Viet Nam, besides, have been strongly critcized by the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Organization of Journalists and the Federation of Trade Unions of Jordan, the Mongolian Peace Committee, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, the youth organization of the Tanganyaka African National Union (TANU), the Bulgarian Red Cross, the National Peace Council of Hungary, the Socialist Youth Union of Czechoslovakia, and the press in many countries. As pointed out by the Romanian paper *Scintera* on Dec. 8, "these crimes have thrown additional light on the reactionary and anti-popular character of the Thieu regime and on its scheme to obstruct and delay the restoration of peace in Viet Nam."

Nixon's search for peace!

Fishing in troubled waters

A. MALIK, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, was reported by Western sources as repeatedly boasting that "Indonesia had become a member of the International Commission of Control in Viet Nam," that she "had been invited by the United States and North Viet Nam to join the International Commission," that her Government had received from the DRVN Government "a message giving clarifications on the peace plan," etc. The Indonesian ruling circles were acting as if they were ready to send to Viet Nam some 2,000 troops and personnel to perform their peace-keeping duty. But such falsehoods were given a flat denial by North and South Viet Nam authorities who exposed their ulterior motive. The Djakarta bosses' activities during the last few years were described as irreconcilable with the aspirations and interests of the Indonesian people, as acts of treason to the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America and peace in Southeast Asia and the world. Under a deceptive "neutrality" label, they were jeopardizing the independence of Asian peoples. In Paris RSVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh declared on December 8 that nobody had officially invited Indonesia to sit on the International Commission of Control, since the agreement had not been signed. Yet on December 13, Malik shamelessly said that Indonesia was keeping 50 officials ready for the International Commission in Viet Nam (*AFP*, December 13).

Looked upon with contempt by the Vietnamese and progressives all over the world, those who are trying to fish in troubled waters do their best to serve the purposes of US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam for some hand-outs. In so doing they only bare themselves as agents of US imperialism. Rumors have been spread by them that the South Viet Nam NFL Representation in Djakarta would be closed down after the signing of a peace agreement in Viet Nam. This is obviously part of a US plan to cancel the legal existence of the RSVN PRG. Significantly enough, only a short time ago, the Indonesian rulers tried to justify the US bombing of North Viet Nam dykes, approved the US *volte-face* in postponing the signing of the agreement already concluded with the DRVN, attempted to sabotage at US instigation the Georgetown Conference of Non-Aligned Nations, etc. All that was done at a time when the whole progressive makind was criticizing the US aggressors and backing the RSVN PRG, when diplomatic relations between the latter and other countries were rapidly expanding and when the world peoples were praising the PRG's role in leading the South Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression for independence and freedom.

As judiciously pointed out by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, "this country which claims to contribute to peace in Viet Nam has shown an attitude that does not fall in with the South Vietnamese people's aspirations."

DAI LIEN.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION